



House of Commons

NOTICES OF AMENDMENTS

given on

Thursday 25 April 2013

*For other Amendment(s) see the following page(s) of Supplement to Votes:
953-59, 1103-06, 1109-11 and 1177-78*

CONSIDERATION OF BILL

MARRIAGE (SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL

Marriages according to usages of approved organisations

Kate Green
Stephen Williams
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Dr Julian Huppert
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NC15

To move the following Clause:—

‘(1) In the Marriage Act 1949, insert the following section—

“47A Marriages according to usages of approved organisations

- (1) The Registrar General may by certificate approve organisations to solemnize marriages according to their usages provided that any such organisation—
 - (a) is a registered charity principally concerned with advancing or practising the non-religious belief known as humanism;
 - (b) has been in continuous existence for five years; and
 - (c) appears to the Registrar General to be of good repute.
- (2) In the certificate referred to in subsection (1) the Registrar General shall designate an officer of the organisation (“the principal officer”) to appoint persons for stated periods of time to act as registering officers on behalf of the organisation, and may impose such conditions as seem to him or her to be desirable relative to the conduct of marriages by the organisation and to the safe custody of marriage register books.
- (3) The principal officer shall, within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, certify the names and addresses of the persons so appointed to the Registrar General and to the superintendent registrars of

Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, *continued*

the registration districts in which such persons live, together with such other details as the Registrar General shall require.

- (4) A marriage shall not be solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation until duplicate marriage register books have been supplied by the Registrar General under Part IV of this Act to the registering officers appointed to act on behalf of the organisation.
 - (5) If the Registrar General is not satisfied with respect to any registering officer of the approved organisation that sufficient security exists for the safe custody of marriage register books, he or she may in his or her discretion suspend the appointment of that registering officer.
 - (6) A marriage to which this section applies shall be solemnized with open doors in the presence of either—
 - (a) a registrar of the registration district in which the marriage takes place; or
 - (b) a registering officer appointed under subsection (2) whose name and address have been certified in accordance with subsection (3) and of two witnesses; and the persons to be married shall make the declarations and use the form of words set out in subsection (3) or (3A) of section 44.
 - (7) A marriage solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation shall not be valid unless there is produced to the superintendent registrar, at the time when notice of marriage is given, a certificate purporting to be signed by the principal officer or a registering officer of the approved organisation to the effect that each person giving notice of marriage is either a member of the said organisation or is authorised to be married according to the said usages under or in pursuance of a general rule of the said approved organisation.
 - (8) A certificate under subsection (7) shall be for all purposes conclusive evidence that any person to whom it relates is authorised to be married according to the usages of the said organisation and the entry of the marriage in a marriage register book under Part IV of this Act, or a certified copy thereof made under the said Part IV, shall be conclusive evidence of the production of such a certificate.
 - (9) A copy of any general rule of the said organisation purporting to be signed by the principal officer for the time being of the said organisation shall be admitted as evidence of the general rule in all proceedings touching the validity of any marriage solemnized according to the usages of the said organisation.’.
- (2) Schedule [Consequential amendments—Marriage according to usages of approved organisations] has effect.’.

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Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, *continued*

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20

Page 6, line 29 [*Clause 5*], after ‘solemnized’, insert ‘and includes an organisation approved under section 47A(1).’.

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21

Page 49, line 16 [*Schedule 7*], after ‘celebrated’, insert ‘and includes and organisation approved under section 47A(1).’.

NOTICES WITHDRAWN

The following Notices were withdrawn on 25 April:

NC12
Amendments 7, 8, 9.
